

2+2 TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Update

Kentucky's participation in the 2001 NASH State K-12 Summer Institute led directly to the development of a 2+2 teacher preparation program in Kentucky. Representatives of the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Council on Postsecondary Education, public and independent postsecondary institutions, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System formed a Statewide Steering Team that has worked since then to create a program that will recruit more teachers, expand access to teacher preparation opportunities statewide, allow aspiring teachers to begin their preparation in high school, maximize credit transfer between two- and four-year institutions, and raise the number and preparation of classroom assistants.

In June, the Education Commission of the States invited Kentucky to participate in a national meeting to produce a plan and timeline for implementing its 2+2 teacher preparation program. The steering committee endorsed this plan, and representatives of Eastern Kentucky University, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, and Murray State University signed a pilot dual credit agreement. Under this agreement, each of the participating universities and the KCTCS colleges will work with high schools to offer the introductory education course for dual high school and college credit. The course will be fully transferable to participating four-year programs.

Following a meeting July 29, Lindsey Wilson College, Midway College, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University joined the institutions named above to develop an articulation agreement that will identify at least 60 hours of transferable credit from the KCTCS associate degree program toward the teacher preparation baccalaureate programs. The target deadline for completing this articulation agreement is October 2003. Several KCTCS institutions are preparing to seek KCTCS Board of Regents approval for offering the new program during the coming year.

The KCTCS also is developing a paraprofessional program to prepare teaching assistants for classroom employment. Graduates of the paraprofessional program would earn a credential allowing them immediately to assist licensed teachers in the classroom. They also would be able to transfer most of their earned credits into a four-year licensure program.

Dr. Carolyn O'Daniel, Executive Director of Academic Affairs at the KCTCS, and Dr. Jack Rose, Dean of the College of Education at Murray State University, will report progress to date on this program.